



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Contact: Ned Schano 412-454-6382 nschano@heinzhistorycenter.org
Brady Smith 412-454-6459 bmsmith@heinzhistorycenter.org

Save Our Stories: History Center Launches Kickstarter Campaign to Help Preserve WWII Oral Histories

-Donations will support the transcription of oral and video histories housed at the History Center in partnership with Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh-

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 21, 2016 – This Thanksgiving, Pittsburghers can show their appreciation for local U.S. veterans by supporting the Senator John Heinz History Center’s new Kickstarter campaign, “Save Our Stories,” which recently launched online at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/298633652/save-our-stories>.

Each donation helps the History Center and Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh transcribe dozens of audio and video oral histories of World War II veterans, housed in the museum’s Detre Library & Archives collection.

Since 2015, the History Center has partnered with Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh to serve as the official repository for hundreds of oral histories provided by Western Pa. veterans. These first-person testimonials are an essential documentation of history, especially as the WWII “greatest generation” veterans pass on.

The transcription of these oral histories allows for the stories to be accessible to all so they may be properly researched, referenced, and cited for academic and historical purposes.

The History Center’s “Save Our Stories” Kickstarter campaign aims to raise \$10,000 by Sunday, Dec. 11. Per Kickstarter rules, if the \$10,000 goal is not raised by the deadline, the History Center will not receive any funds.

Several enticing incentives are offered through the Kickstarter site for donations of all sizes, from free Heinz pickle pins and BOGO admission offers to private lunches with History Center archivists and executives.

For examples of WWII oral histories and a complete list of incentives, please visit the Kickstarter campaign site at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/298633652/save-our-stories>.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region’s remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages.

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The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



Pittsburghers can show their appreciation for local WWII veterans by supporting the History Center's new Kickstarter campaign, "Save Our Stories," which helps transcribe dozens of audio and video oral histories (pictured: late WWII veteran and Coraopolis native Albert Crawford, whose oral history is housed in the Detre Library & Archives at the History Center).

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